dial-up charges for off-peak hours to be provided for Internet browsing. Thus the actual cost for PSTN component could be considerably less than Rs. 36/- depending upon the usage pattern of the subscriber.

(b) and (c) As per the TRAI Act, TRAI is mandated to decide the tariffs for all Telecom Services, accordingly TRAI has issued the 24th Amendment to TTO, 1999. However, the tariffs announced by TRAI are in form of the Standard Tariff Package and the operators including Government sector operators are at liberty to offer tariff packages with lower/higher pulse duration.

Spurt in software piracy

2325. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the software piracy rate, after recording a fall in 1999, has again recorded a spurt to 70 per cent during 2001 and whether the estimates for 2002 in pegged at 73 per cent.

(b) whether 7 out of every 10 software pakages sold in the country are pirated;

(c) whether the high-profit margin in pirated software packages is attracting investments by the underworld in the trade; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to check the piracy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The estimates for softare piracy, as per National Association of Software Services Companies (NASSCOM), for the last four years, are as follows:

Year	Software Piracy (%)
1999-2000	59
2000-01	61
2001-02	64
2002-03	67 (provisional)

(c) No such specific case has been brought to the notice of Government by the IT software industry.

(d) Various measures taken by the Government to check software piracy are enclosed at Statement.

Statement

Various measures taken to curtail software piracy include:

1. In India the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of software is covered under copyright law, violation of which attracts both fine and punishment.
2. Information Technology Act 2000 has been notified *w.e.f.* 17.10.2000. This act is expected to help in dealing with software piracy and containing the problem.
3. Government has also set-up a copyright Enforcement Advisory Council which reviews the progress of inforcement of copyright act and also advises on measures for its better enforcement.
4. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs Duty.
5. Government has been supporting Anti-Piracy Campaign of NASSCOM and instructions have also been issued to various Government departments to only use legal copies of software.
6. Use of free software/open source software will also bring down piracy as it is legally permitted to copy the same at no cost.

Rural Postal Life Insurance

2226. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'melas'/'camps' were organised by the Department of Posts to sell policies in respect of Rural Postal Life Insurance Scheme in rural areas of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of policies sold in those melas, during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to give more publicity to popularise the Rural Postal Life Insurance Scheme and if so, the details thereof?